

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David Palumey on 10/18/2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 19, line 2, after "¹⁸F" delete "atom".

Claims 21-24 have been cancelled.

In claim 20, line 1, after "1'" delete "comprising at least one ¹⁸F atom and insert --- wherein m is at least 2 and at least one F is ¹⁹F.

Claims 3, 13, 16-18 are rejoined. According to rejoinder provision under MPEP821.04 claims are examined and allowed because they are dependent on allowed claims.

Reasons for allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Closet prior art found is Timothy M. Shoup et al (J. Nucl. Med, 1994). The prior art teaches synthesis of Fluorine-18-labeled Biotin derivatives in order to help elucidate the role of the side chain on biotin binding to avidin and infection site and also as high contrast tumor imaging agents, but fails to teach claimed invention (i.e., compound of the formula:

Art Unit: 1618

$(F)_m-G-(R)_n$ wherein each R is a group comprising at least one carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus, sulfur or biomolecule, G is silicon or boron and wherein at least one F is ^{18}F or ^{19}F . The claimed subject matter is considered to be novel and patentably distinct over prior art of the record

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAGADISHWAR SAMALA whose telephone number is (571)272-9927. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.30 A.M to 5.00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Hartley can be reached on (571)272-0616. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1618

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael G. Hartley/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1618

/J. S./
Examiner, Art Unit 1618

.